

Attorney Docket No. 82601 84842

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: WAYNE C. TUCKER ET AL Date: 4 March 2003  
Serial No.: 10/143,173  
Filed: 07 May 2002 Group Art Unit: 174A  
For: NON-CHROMATE METAL SURFACE ETCHING Fax Number: 703-746-9195  
SOLUTIONS

PETITION UNDER 37 CFR § 102(c)

To the Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.102 Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified patent application be made special and advanced out of turn for examination for the reason that the invention will materially enhance the quality of the environment.

In support thereof, Attachments A and B are submitted herewith:

A. Declaration of Dr. David Brown

B. Declaration of Maria G. Medeiros

In view of the explanation of how the invention contributes to the restoration or maintenance of the basic life-sustaining natural elements - air, water and soil provided by Attachment A, which an Applicant has affirmed and adopted by Attachment B, approval of this Petition is earnestly requested.

I hereby certify that this paper is being FAXSIMILE transmitted to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents on the date shown below.

Michael F. Ogle  
APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY

4 March 2003  
DATE OF SIGNATURE

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The Examiner is invited to phone Michael F. Oglo, attorney for Applicant, 401-832-4736, if in his/her opinion such phone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAYNE C. TUCKER ET AL

4 March 2003

By Michael F Oglo  
MICHAEL F. OGLO  
Attorney of Record  
Reg. No. 20464

Attorney Docket No. 82601

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: WAYNE C. TUCKER ET AL Date: 9 December 2002  
Serial No.: 10/143,173  
Filed: 07 May 2002 Group Art Unit: 1742  
For: NON-CHROMATE METAL SURFACE ETCHING Fax Number: 703-872-9310  
SOLUTIONS

DECLARATION

To the Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

The undersigned Dr. Richard Brown is a Professor at the University of Rhode Island. The scope of this assignment includes teaching classes involving cadmium and chromate replacement as these are environmentally unfriendly, as well as research projects in these areas.

I have been in this capacity for 10 years.

I hold the degree of Ph.D. from Cambridge (UK) University. My published writings which address aspects of environmental quality matters include: "The Effects of Co-Mingling Dissimilar Fastener Coatings on the Corrosion Behavior of Steel Bolt Assemblies", MTL TR 92-40, July 1992, U.S. Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Watertown, MA.

I am familiar with the above identified patent application, and with tests performed comparing the process taught by it with prior art processes.

The aim of this patent application is to replace chromate conversion coatings on aluminum alloys. In the new process no chromates are used, while in the prior art processes, a hexavalent chromium ion solution constituted from sodium chromate and other components is used to develop a conversion coating on the surface of the aluminum alloy. It is this stage of the prior art process that is hazardous in that the chromate has low personnel exposure limits set by NIOSH. The use of chromate solution is also deleterious in that it creates hazardous waste that must be handled carefully to avoid pollution of ground water. Therefore the replacement of chromates used in conversion coatings will materially enhance the quality of the environment by contributing to the restoration or maintenance of the basic life sustaining elements - air, water and soil.

The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or

imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issue thereon.

12/9/02  
DATE

Richard Brown  
RICHARD BROWN

Attorney Docket No. 82601

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: WAYNE C. TUCKER ET AL

Date: 28 February 2003

Serial No.: 10/143,173

Filed: 07 May 2002

Group Art Unit: 1742

For: NON-CHROMATE METAL SURFACE ETCHING Fax Number: 703-872-9310  
SOLUTIONS

DECLARATION

To the Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

The undersigned Maria G. Medeiros is an Applicant under the  
above identified patent application.

I have read the declaration of Dr. Richard Brown dated 9  
December 2002, which sets forth an explanation of how the  
invention of the above identified patent application contributes  
to the restoration or maintenance of the basic life-sustaining  
natural elements - air, water and soil, and do affirm and adopt  
this statement as though made by me.

The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made  
herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made  
on information and belief are believed to be true; and further  
that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful  
false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or  
imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the  
United States Code and that such willful false statements may

jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issue thereon.

28 February 2003

Maria Q. Medico



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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84842  
UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231  
www.uspto.gov

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PAPER NO. 6

In re Application of  
Wayne C. Tucker et al.  
Serial Number: 10/143,173  
Filed: May 07, 2002  
For: CHROMATE METAL SURFACE ETCHING  
SOLUTIONS

PETITION UNDER  
M.P.E.P.708.02,V

This is in response to the petition filed, March 04, 2003 requesting that the above-identified application be granted Special Status under section 708.02 (V) of the MPEP and 37 CFR 1.102(c) (no fee required).

The request for Special Status considered under Section 708.02 (V) is granted because criteria under 37 CFR 1.102(c) has been met.

Accordingly the petition is **GRANTED**.

*Jacqueline M. Stone*

Jacqueline M. Stone, Director  
Technology Center 1700  
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